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The Fascination of Rock Gardening



Spring
1931~



Rock
Gardens
At
Sarcoxie
Nurseries

SARCOXIE NURSERIES
 PEONY FIELDS

Wild Brothers Nursery Co., Sarcoxie, Missouri

The Fascination of Rock Gardening

You can have a rock garden, charming and beautiful from the time the early flowers first awaken in the spring until the frosts of autumn put the late flowers to sleep for the winter. It may consist of a few square feet, delightful in its simplicity. It may represent only a few dollars and a little work, or it may be large and give the gardener an opportunity to exercise all his skill in design and indulge his fancy for variety, color and form. Size is not important for charm. Size is of importance only as it affects the kind and a number of plants that may be used and the opportunity it affords to produce more of the effects found in nature.

The idea, sometimes expressed, that a rock garden is a serious undertaking that requires years to secure pleasing results is a mistake. It is not as complicated as it sounds, for the garden is built rock by rock and the plants set a plant at a time. It is surprising how charming a picture may be produced the first season by a selection of some of the more easily grown flowers. True, a finished garden cannot be grown in one year, and is not to be desired. It is unnecessary, in fact a mistake, to plant so thickly that no planting need be done in future years. If you do that, you surely will later have to build another. For you will want to add to your garden. You will want flowers from the earliest to the latest. You probably will collect flowers from the wild—Buttercups, Anemones, Jack-in-the-Pulpit—anything that strikes your fancy. Later you will try some of the more difficult plants rarely seen, succeed with some, fail with others. You will develop an appreciation of beauty of form and texture of foliage as well as of flowers. You will have something of interest from the time snow is gone until snow comes again, and with the dwarfed evergreens and berried shrubs, beauty winter and summer. You will have a garden in which you can give your ideas free rein, a garden all your own and such as you have never seen. And that's part of the fascination of rock gardening.

What is a Rock Garden?

Rock gardening is not a passing fad but a sensible, practical form of gardening that has rapidly become popular and is destined to be permanent since we have come to realize what beautiful gardens may be had by adapting them to American conditions. Too long we attempted to imitate the gardens of countries whose conditions are entirely different, often with discouraging results because the plants used were in many cases not suited to our conditions. We were taught that it was not a rock garden unless built to give alpine or mountainous plants the conditions of soil and location necessary for their proper development. Often we failed and were disheartened.

Then in our tramps through wood and hill, we began to notice the beautiful backgrounds stones afford for our native plants, and we began to ask ourselves: Really, what is a rock garden? We noticed that wherever there is soil nature makes a garden. In rocky ground she makes a rock garden. But nature does not, in the regions of long, hot summers, plant the flowers that are natural in mountainous regions, which require a short growing season of three to five months and, in many cases, cool summers. True, some alpine plants are not so exacting in their requirements and succeed in temperate regions, but if we confine our garden to alpine plants we must expect to find many are not suited to our conditions.

The secret of success, then, is to take a lesson from nature and plant mostly those we know will succeed. To take the sensible view that there is a rock garden for all the varying conditions of soil and climate, and that we may use any plant which looks well and appropriate. This includes many commonly grown perennials. It includes many valued mainly for differing shape and color of foliage, many which depend for their charm upon a mass of small flowers—plants which may produce little effect in the perennial border but are beautiful among the rocks.

It isn't a rock garden unless rocks are a prominent feature. Yet it must be more than a mere pile of stones. Notice that in nature's garden the stones are weathered, perhaps covered with moss or lichens. That they are not lying on top of the ground but are embedded in the soil, perhaps for half their depth, as if they had lain there for ages. That the best effect is produced when most of the rocks are large.



A rock garden should, above all else, appear natural. Man's part should, as far as possible, be concealed. In nature's garden there is no appearance of formality. Avoid straight lines and symmetrical curves. Elaborate designs even though informal are out of place. Nature's keynote is simplicity. The woods, the rocky slopes, the hillsides, the bluffs, will give many good ideas, not necessarily gardens to be copied, but suggestions of nature's treatment and design.

Location of the Rock Garden

The rock garden should not be too prominent, certainly not in the middle of the lawn. Usually a location in a corner or at one side may be made to harmonize with the other landscape features. Often it may be in the now popular outdoor living room. Take advantage of any natural mound, bank, hillside, or outcropping of stones. With the aid of a background these may be artificial yet appear natural. The conditions of sun and shade largely determine the plants that may be used. If one has a space part of which is in full sun, part shaded all day and part shaded part of the day, the location is ideal.

The elevated gardens are usually sufficiently drained, but it should be remembered that good drainage is essential. Hardiness is largely a matter of good drainage. Rock garden plants will not thrive where water stands after a rain. Drainage must be provided or the location changed. Good drainage carries off surplus water and prevents excessive dampness on the surface.

Size of the Rock Garden

While it should not be out of proportion to the house and other planting, the size will be determined largely by the space available and the time that may be devoted to its care. For the garden must have some care, even as must our houses and our stores. Yet the attention given the garden may be our relaxation from the care of business, our hobby or our recreation, to which we look forward at the close of the day.

In the large garden pictures may be painted in broad effects with nature's own colors, landscapes may be created with small hills and little valleys, winding paths, cliffs, perhaps a brook with tiny lakes or pools. Different soils and exposures may be provided for a greater variety of plants. If the lawn is small the garden may consist of a few square feet with the pictures in miniature. It may be the most dainty of all forms of gardening, yet combine dignity, character and charm.

Types of Rock Gardens

Fortunate is he who need only take advantages of an opportunity provided by nature. Often the garden is necessarily man-made, and one problem is to give the appearance of a natural garden preserved. Visit other gardens. See what is appropriate in different surroundings. Observe the mistakes and successes. Then let nature be your inspiration.

The natural forms of the earth's surface are either convex (curved upward), concave (hollowed), plane (flat), or combinations of these, the change sometimes abrupt, sometimes

gradual. Rock gardens therefore follow more or less one of or a combination of the following types:

The *Rocky Mound* is one of the most easily constructed and, with the aid of a background, may readily be made to harmonize with its surroundings. It may imitate the mounds sometimes found in nature, or may give the appearance of a small hill. It provides east, west, north and south exposures with varying conditions of sun and shade. An abrupt north slope will give shade almost all day, an advantage for some plants.

The *Hollow*, its rocky sides planted, is charming when successfully carried out, or if it occurs naturally. It may give rise to a *Sunken Garden*. It may be made to appear natural if it appears to drain the higher levels of the lawn. It must be drained, else it may become a submerged garden.

The *Ravine* is in nature a deep and narrow hollow with steep banks, usually worn by a stream. When provided by nature the rock garden is often the most appropriate treatment.

The *Hillside* and *Stony Bank* are different sizes of the same thing. Often a bank may be constructed along a garden path if a shrub or other background is provided.

The *Rocky Ledge* is difficult to imitate unless there is some apparent reason for its existence. It may be used if the lawn abruptly changes grade or can be made to do so. In nature the rocks may be so close together that it is necessary to remove some to provide sufficient soil. The ledge limits the number and especially the kinds of plants that may be used, but gives opportunity for varieties that in other surroundings are not especially attractive.

The *Wall Garden* or *Retaining Wall*, unless a natural ledge, is frankly artificial to serve some useful purpose and an exception to the rule that the garden should appear natural. It gives best gardening results when constructed with a view to planting, as then more soil is provided between the rocks and the soil at the front is made to come in contact with that behind the wall. This prevents drying so readily and gives more room for the roots. If sloped backward a trifle it will be more stable. The treatment of this and the ledge is the same. The wall should not be entirely covered as some of the stones should show, with plants occurring irregularly as if planted by nature.

The *Foundation Rock Garden* is a type seldom seen but is a charming treatment for a dwelling in a rocky location with naturalistic planting. It makes possible the use of building sites which otherwise would be unattractive.

An *Outcropping of Rocks* is an opportunity not to be neglected. For the rock garden need not be elevated but may be on perfectly level ground with excellent effect. What makes a garden is a congenial arrangement of plants, stone and path, for the foot path is a necessary part of a well arranged garden. If no path is yet laid out, study the garden location from all angles at several different times and the path will have located itself by your observing the line most used by your own foot steps.

Go into the countryside for an afternoon, observe the outcropping of rocks which fits nearest into your scheme of gar-



Lichen covered rocks in sun at Sarcoxie Nurseries

dening and supply in your mind the plants needed to further beautify it. This garden needs, in the main, larger stones than if elevated, and it is well, if possible, to have beside the walk one or two large enough to sit upon and so placed as to be in or to make a natural bend in the path.

A very good arrangement is to have this garden wholly beside the path at one end and on both sides at the other, giving an opportunity for a bit of greensward. If possible make the background, which may be of shrubs or a stone wall, back of that part which is all garden, or, we will say, the longer half. This longer half will contain most of the tall growing plants and may very properly blend into a rose garden at one end. It may have fewer rocks in it than the smaller half as the small and dwarf plants lend themselves best to the front of the rock garden. There should be several sizeable rocks lying out by themselves with dwarf plants on but one side. This is in imitation of nature's rock garden, where often a large stone has rolled down a hillside, far beyond most of the rocks.

The Lily Pool

It is often said that the pool has no place in the rock garden. Yet every natural pool has a natural garden. If the bank is rocky it of necessity is a rock garden. The surroundings or lay of the land will suggest the shape of the pool. It may be of rounded outline with gentle curves. Or it may be irregular and broken with narrow, sharp bays or arms and jutting, rocky headlands. It may combine a gently sloping beach and abrupt banks. The earth from the pool may be used for a mound or hillside, some stones added and the planting readily be made to harmonize. A group of trees to cast their dark shadows on the water add to the attractiveness. If of sufficient size one may use hardy Water Lilies, the easiest flower grown. All they require is fertile soil, water and sun.

The Background

In nature all gardens have a background. It may be a group of shrubs, a grove or forest, a hillside with gardens here and there. Or the garden may blend into the surrounding natural landscape. The home grounds are not usually of sufficient size for nature to provide a background, so man must plan one. Trees help produce a natural appearance and screen from view nearby building and plantings not in harmony with the garden. Even though the real purpose be a screen it should appear to be a part of or a background for the garden.

Often a distant background of trees may blend into the picture. If yet to be planted, trees of somewhat informal growth are usually more appropriate than those too symmetrical in outline. Often those ordinarily considered too ill-shaped for lawn planting produce just the effect desired. Columnar and other formal types must be used with caution. Properly located, a few may be appropriate, but it is easy to use too many. Surface-rooting trees, such as Soft Maple, should be avoided. Some Evergreens will provide winter beauty and give variety. Shrubs are useful to partially bridge the gap between the ground line and the branches of the trees.

Most gardens are improved by some planting, perhaps trees, evergreens or shrubs, to frame the picture. Without it the eye



A real Japanese garden showing use of dwarf, creeping and informal evergreens



Veronica rupestris at Sarcoxie Nurseries

wanders from the garden to other objects. An effective treatment is to extend the background into side plantings with irregular curves, the side lines converging and leading the view to the garden. This gives a small lawn in front and opportunity for a greater variety of shrubs and plants.

Rock Garden Soils

Much is written of special soil mixtures necessary for rock garden plants. Yet the greater number will thrive in a light sandy garden loam with a liberal amount of leaf mold or other humus (vegetable matter in process of decay), such as will grow good garden crops. Some humus is necessary for good growth and it helps prevent excessive washing. If the soil is inclined to be heavy add sand and gritty gravel or stone chips. This aids drainage as the water quickly leaves the surface, seeks the lower levels and is held in reserve for the future use of the plants. The soil should be sufficiently fertile for good growth but avoid an excess of manure which would produce rank growth. Soil sometimes washes away or plants are lifted (heaved) by frosts. Provide a mixture of soil, sand and leaf mold run through a sieve and keep it for filling. Sand or gravel from the mines should not be used.

When one has had some experience in rock gardening and decides to try the more difficult alpine plants, it may be necessary to prepare special soil for some parts of the garden: More sand and stone chips for those requiring dry soil. More leaf mold or humus for those preferring moist soil. Acid leaf mold, from under oaks or evergreens, for acid-loving plants. A soil will not permanently remain acid in the presence of limestone.

Designing the Rock Garden

Having decided upon the style, lay out the size and shape, decide upon the high points and valleys, providing different levels if the garden is of sufficient size, plan the paths, the steps and bridges if any. These will all be affected by the size. The rock garden design cannot be completely worked out on paper and no doubt changes will be made as the work progresses.

The paths, an essential part of any garden, serve for moving about the garden and should lead to points of interest, curving irregularly and gracefully through the valleys, or around rocks, plants, or dwarf, bushy evergreens as though they had barred the way. If you find difficulty in planning the paths, construct the garden, view it several times from all parts, and you have but to follow the lines you have most often trod.

Bridges and steps are obviously artificial and for utility but the materials should harmonize with the surroundings. The bridge should appear of sufficient strength and stability for use, yet not so massive as to be out of proportion. A bridge is seen to best advantage, not from the path which approaches it, but across an expanse of water. It should be located to afford such a view, and so a considerable expanse of water is visible from the bridge. Large, reasonably flat stones, firmly placed, are the most appropriate steps. The width from front to back should be greater than an ordinary stairway, and the rise from one step to another an easy stepping distance, say about five inches.

Placing the Rocks

A mixture of different geological formations is not natural. The best effect is produced by uniformity in the kind of rocks used. In the main they should be large, though irregular in

size. Some smaller stones may be used but it takes large rocks to give character and an appearance of stability.

Avoid crowding. Nature has plenty of room. Keep the arrangement irregular. Formal designs, such as uniform borders along a path, do not occur in nature. To give an appearance of permanence the rocks should be firmly embedded in the soil. Observe the center of gravity. The broader portion or base should be down. Place the most attractive side so it shows. If available, use mossy stones for the shady locations, lichen-covered stones for the sunny portions. Narrow or flat rocks should lay flat. Slope the stones slightly so water will run back into the soil. When making a mound or other garden where there is much filling it is well to let the soil settle before placing the rocks.

Water in the Rock Garden

Water requires but a concealed hydrant, arranged to prevent freezing in winter, and opportunity for drainage. A small brook winding naturally through the garden or along the side, with miniature lakes to mirror the surrounding landscape and the flying clouds, adds greatly to its charm and provides natural settings for many small plants which like an abundance of moisture. If made to fall from an overhanging rock into a small pool the motion, the tinkle and sparkle of the water, at once appeal to the imagination. The stream should not only have an obvious source but an apparent destination. It may disappear behind shrubbery and be carried away by a drain if it cannot be made to run into a small lake.

Care of the Rock Garden

Provision for irrigation is a convenience. A watering can or common spray nozzle may be used, but requires too much time, washes the soil and splashes mud on the plants. A short portable section of the Skinner Irrigation System with 70 degree nozzles throws a fine spray that soaks in. A hose connection and two slender iron bars with V-top, stuck in the ground to support the spray line, makes spraying easy. It needs no attention except to occasionally change the pitch and to move the line when the soil is sufficiently watered. If the Skinner System is not available we will quote on request. Or there are a number of nozzles that throw a fine spray.

Fall set plants should be mulched after the ground begins freezing, and it is a benefit to many hardy plants, even when established. Stable manure and leaves pack when wet and soggy and often rot the tops of plants which retain their foliage during winter. Pine needles or clean, bright straw are better as they do not pack so readily and prevent circulation of air. The object is not to cover them so thickly they will not freeze, but to give sufficient protection and shade to prevent rapid alternate freezing and thawing.

Plants for the Rock Garden

All writers agree that plants in masses are more effective than single specimens. For example, a half dozen Arctic Daisies in



Elder Daisies are wonderfully vigorous growers and free bloomers in May. View in rock garden at Sarcoxie Nurseries



*Phlox and Sedum, with trees as a distant background,
at Sarcoxie Nurseries*

one group give a better display than if dotted here and there. This follows nature. A plant favorably located spreads naturally until a colony is formed. Therefore, plant mostly in colonies. Evergreens or white flowers may be used to separate colors that might clash.

The plants used will depend largely upon the size of the garden. Some which in bloom are rather tall are suitable if the tops are not dense and massive, such as Columbine and Agrostemma. Whether the garden be large or small, there should be an abundance of those low-growing plants naturally found among the rocks, such as Sempervivum for its low rosettes of leaves. Sedums for their variety of foliage and flowers and

Phlox subulata for its mat of mossy foliage and myriads of small blooms in early spring.

Many spring-flowering bulbs, such as Grape Hyacinth, Crocus and Snowdrops are suitable. Darwin Tulips are sometimes too tall for small gardens, but often find a place in large gardens, especially in a border or background of shrubs. Hyacinths are too formal in appearance for most gardens.

Dwarf evergreens give variety and winter color. Trailing and creeping Junipers are especially beautiful over and among the rocks. Dwarf, bushy evergreens, such as Mugho Pine, are suitable in the lower levels. Some of these, and in fact any plant that succeeds, will in time become too large. Then prune them back or remove them. If the garden is confined to the very dwarf forms it takes too long to secure results.

No two people will agree upon a list of plants. The following, in addition to those already mentioned, are suggested for first-year results, other and entirely different plants to be added from time to time as taste and fancy dictates. Violets and Forget-me-nots are at home in the rock garden, the latter particularly good along the margin of a brook. Sweet Williams and Elder Daisies give a mass of color in May, Shasta Daisies in summer, Arctic Daisies in October. Where a plant two to three feet high may be used, Korean Daisies may be used for October display. Delphiniums are valuable for spikes of blue, Eupatorium for mist-like flowers throughout latter summer. Scotch Pinks with their spreading, grass-like habit are appropriate among the rocks, and furnish both color and fragrance.

For other suggestions the reader is referred to the list following. It includes some varieties not ordinarily considered rock-garden plants, yet valuable in borders and toward the back of gardens such as the outcropping of rocks or flat garden. To aid in selecting, the height in bloom is given. If you happen to get one in a location not suitable, the remedy is easy. Next year transplant it to a new location.

Hardy Flowers

Good strong outdoor grown plants. The blooming dates are for southern Missouri. When height is given thus (12-18 in.) it means the flower stems are 12 to 18 in. high when in bloom. Sun, or shade, indicates whether the plant succeeds in sun or shade. The statement that a plant blooms all summer, or for a long time, assumes it is not allowed to produce seed.

Plants by Parcel Post

Plants vary in weight and there are 8 zones. For Missouri and adjoining states allow 10c for the first and 1½ to 3c for each additional plant. Any surplus will be refunded.

Six or more of a kind at the dozen rate.

Agrostemma coronaria; Rose Champion

Downy silvery-gray leaves; bright cerise-crimson circular flowers 1½ in. across on many-branched stems in late May and for a long time; (1-2½ ft.); sun; 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Alyssum rostratum

Golden-yellow flowers in dense heads in summer; leaves 2 in. long, hoary-gray; prostrate habit; of easy culture in sun and well drained soil; (12-18 in.) 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Alyssum saxatile compactum; Basket of Gold

Broad masses of bright yellow flowers in early spring; dwarf habit; makes a spreading mat of grayish-green leaves; of easy culture. 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Armeria maritima; Common Thrift

Narrow, grass-like evergreen leaves, 3-6 in. high; small silvery-pink flowers in pretty little balls; stiff wiry stems; early summer till fall; (6-15 in.) 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Blanket Flower; Gaillardia grandiflora

Flowers 2 to 3 in. across, maroon bordered yellow; latter May till frost; prefers full sun and sandy soil; good combined with Shasta Daisies; divide and replant every 2 or 3 years; (18-24 in.) 15c each, 3 for 40c. \$1.50 per doz.

Bleeding Heart; Dicentra spectabilis

Heart-shaped flowers, rosy-carmine with white tips, in spring, drooping on long racemes; needs rich, fairly light soil; succeeds in sun or shade; (2-3 ft.) 50c each.

Candytuft; Iberis sempervirens

A mass of neat evergreen foliage, covered in spring and early summer with dense racemes of small white flowers; best in full sun; dwarf; (9-12 in.) 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Cerastium tomentosum; Snow-in-Summer

A creeping mat of silvery foliage, covered in early summer with small snow-white flowers; for overhanging walls and dry, sunny situations; (6 in.) 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Chrysanthemums, Hardy

In October and the dull November days these keep up the succession of beauty; sun or shade part of the day; hardy with good drainage and winter mulch; (2-4 ft.) White, yellow, mauve-pink, red. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Columbine; Aquilegia

Many showy, dainty spurred flowers on well-branched stalks 18-24 in. tall in May; neat clumps of foliage; attractive in the rockery and perennial border; sun or partial shade. Mixed colors, 20c each, 3 for 55c. \$2.00 per doz.



*Showing the foliage effect of Sedum in the rock garden
at Sarcoxie Nurseries*

Coreopsis lanceolata grandiflora

Yellow daisy-like flowers 2 to 3 in. across in May and most of summer; a good contrast with Delphinium; prefers sun, tolerates partial shade; divide and replant every 2 years; (1½-2½ ft.) 15c each, 3 for 40c, \$1.50 per doz.

Daisy, Arctic

Fine in the rockery or the front of the perennial border for its October daisies 2-2½ in. across on 12 in. stems; neat clumps of foliage. Clumps 35c each, \$3.50 per doz.

Daisy, Early Elder

In May a grand display of daisies 2½-3 in. across on 20-30 in. stems; very vigorous; divide and replant every other year. 15c each, 2 for 25c, \$1.00 per doz.

Daisy, Late Elder

Ten days to two weeks later than the above; valuable for extending the season. 15c each, 2 for 25c, \$1.00 per doz.

Daisy, English

A Shasta daisy 3-3½ in. across, 2 to 3 ft. tall, 25c each.

Daisy, Korean

A profusion of white, sometimes blush, daisies 2-2½ in. across on many-branched stems 2 to 3 ft. high, beginning about October 1; new. 25c each, 3 for 70c, clumps 50c each.

Daisy, Painted, see Pyrethrum**Daisy, Shasta Alaska**

Large Shasta Daisies in summer and intermittently till fall; (15-24 in.) 15c each, 2 for 25c, \$1.00 per doz.

Daisy, Supreme

A mass of daisies 3½-4 in. across for a month or more, beginning in early June; very tall; fine. 25c each.

Delphinium; Larkspur

Spikes of dainty spurred flowers in May and at intervals if the old flowers are cut off; plant in full sun in well drained, preferably sandy loam; often the addition of ground lime helps; in wet and heavy clay soils they may winter kill.

Prices, 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz. except as noted.

Delphinium Belladonna.—Unrivalled for persistent blooming; the delightful blue of the skies; spikes 18 in. tall.

Delphinium Belladonna Improved. A little larger, taller and more vigorous than above. 25c each, 3 for 70c, \$2.50 doz.

Delphinium Bellamosum. A dark blue form of *Belladonna*.

Delphinium, English Hybrids. Tall, with large flowers. Mixed colors ranging from light to deep blue. 50c each.

Delphinium formosum. Brilliant deep blue margined indigo, overlaid with a glistening frost-like sheen; white eye; one of the most permanent; spikes 2 ft. tall.

Eupatorium coelestinum; Hardy Ageratum

Covered with small, fuzzy, azure-blue flowers like *Agera-*



Sedum spectabilis Brilliant

tums during latter summer; sun or partial shade; starts growth late; (12-24 in.) 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Flax, Perennial; Linum perenne

Pearly lavender-blue flowers 1 in. across on graceful stems 1-1½ ft. tall; late spring to fall; small foliage resembling Spruce needles; full sun. 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Forget-me-not; Myosotis palustris

Dainty little deep blue flowers with yellow eye; delicate racemes 6-8 in. long; spring till fall; charming in the rockery; moist, shady places. 25c each, 3 for 70c, \$2.50 per doz.

Foxglove; Digitalis purpurea gloxiniaeflora

Drooping, long tubular flowers on spikes 2 to 4 ft. tall in May; an excellent flower for tall, pyramidal effects; sun or shade part of the day; mulch with straw in winter. Mixed white, purple and purplish-rose. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Gayfeather; Liatris punctata

Small rosy-purple flowers densely cover the upper part of the stalk in latter summer or fall; sun or partial shade; grows in poor soil; (10-30 in.) 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Helenium pumilum magnificum

Golden yellow flowers produced freely from midsummer till fall on stems 18 in. high. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Helianthemum mutabile; Sun Rose; Rock Rose

Low and creeping; flowers 1 in. across in midsummer, pale rose to lilac or nearly white; sun. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Hollyhocks

Excellent massed against fences, buildings and at angles of walks; (5-8 ft.) Assorted double, 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Iris cyanea

Deep violet flowers in early spring; very dwarf; useful in the rockery and perennial border. 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Irises, Japanese

Flowers large, flat, usually blotched with gold, on slender, graceful stems 2-3½ ft. tall; foliage tall, narrow, bladelike; very effective naturalized along a pool or stream, their beauty mirrored in the water; full sun; any good, mellow loam, not excessively dry; water must not stand on them during winter. All these are 6-petaled or double. Blue, early. Crimson-purple. White, early. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Special Liberty Iris Collection F

Assorted, our selection, named: Half dozen, 3 varieties, 60c, postpaid 75c. Dozen, 6 varieties, \$1.00, postpaid \$1.25. Twenty-five, 8 varieties, \$2.00 postpaid \$2.40. One hundred, 8 varieties, \$6.50, postpaid \$7.75. For complete assortment ask for catalog.



Phlox Miss Lingard at Sarcoxie Nurseries

Larkspur, see Delphinium**Lemon Lily, Dwarf; Hemerocallis minor**

Small star-shaped deep golden yellow flowers in May on 12-15 in. stems; low, dense clumps. 25c each. \$2.50 per doz.

Mallow Marvels

Flowers like single hollyhocks, the size of a pie plate or larger, for 6 to 10 weeks, beginning in early July; excellent singly or in masses, for quick results: 4-6 ft. tall; cut tops to ground each winter; starts growth late. Dark red, rose, pink, bluish, white. 1 yr., 25c each, 3 for 65c, \$2.50 per doz. 2 yr., 35c each, 3 for 95c, \$3.50 per doz.

Peony Surprise Collection

Six good named peonies, all different, our selection, for \$2.50; 12, not less than 6 varieties, for \$4.50. For complete assortment of Peonies ask for descriptive catalog.

Phlox

Showy, and indispensable for brightening the garden just after the spring flowers are gone and before summer flowers arrive in abundance. Use Miss Lingard for early, and other varieties will give Phlox through June. Cut the flowers as they fade and they give a second, sometimes a third crop. Masses, say a half dozen or dozen, of each color produce imposing effects. Or a border may begin with white and gradually work up to red. Plant 12-15 in. apart, 8-12 in. if in a single row, in rich, rather moist soil, deeply prepared. Do not allow seedlings to crowd out the original plants.

Field grown plants to bloom the first summer, 20c each, \$2.00 per doz. If by parcel post add 10c per doz.

Commander. Brilliant deep crimson-red; deeper eye; new.
Eclair. Rich crimson-carmine; large; blooms freely.
Europea. White, crimson eye; large; medium height; fine.
La Vague. Mauve-pink, red eye; large; blooms freely.
Marechal French. Deep scarlet, blood-red eye; large; tall.
Miss Lingard. Early; white, faint lilac eye; large; cut the old flowers and they will give three crops.
Mrs. Jenkins. A good white to follow Miss Lingard.
Rheinlander. A beautiful salmon-pink with deeper eye.
Rheinstrom. Clear, bright rose-pink, slightly tinted salmon; almost the color of Paul Neyron Rose; large; growth good.
R. P. Struthers. Clear cherry-red, darker eye; large; truss-ess heavy; tall; growth strong; one of the best.

Phlox subulata; Moss Pink; Ground Pink

Dwarf, forming dense, spreading mats a foot or more across of small, somewhat moss-like leaves, covered in early spring with flowers an inch across, 2-6 in. above the ground; full sun; tolerates partial shade; for carpeting, edging, and the rockery. Pink; white, 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Pinks, Scotch or Grass; Dianthus plumarius

Very fragrant single and double flowers 1-1½ in. across, white to bright scarlet with fringed petals, in spring and at intervals till fall on 6-12 in. stems; spreading habit; bluish-green Carnation-like foliage; excellent in the rockery or perennial border; well drained soil; best in sun; succeeds in partial shade. Mixed, 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.



Delphinium

Sedum acre; Gold Moss. A low, creeping form; attractive moss green, very small leaves, ¼ in. long; starry bright yellow flowers ½ in. across on shoots 2 to 3 in. high in summer; sun or shade part of the day. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sedum Ewersi. Sub-trailing habit, 4-6 in. high; leaves ½-1 in. across. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sedum pulchellum; Texas Stonecrop. Lavender or pastel-pink flowers in 3-cornered clusters 6-7 in. high in June; narrow, light green, tufted foliage 3 in. high; likes moisture; partial shade. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sedum reflexum; Jenny Stonecrop. Greenish-yellow, starry flowers in flat-topped clusters on stems 6-7 in. high in early July; narrow, light green, tufted foliage, 3 in. high. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sedum sarmentosum. Slender creeping shoots covered in late May with bright yellow, starry flowers ½ in. across; leaves ½ to ¾ in. long; rapid growth; useful for edgings, rockeries, walks and walls where few plants thrive; sun or dense shade. 15c each, 3 for 40c, \$1.50 per doz.

Sedum spectabilis Brilliant; Showy Stonecrop. Rosy-red flowers ½ in. across in large flat-topped clusters 18 in. tall in



Sweet William

Poppy, Iceland; Papaver nudicaule

Dwarf, neat habit; a cluster of evergreen, rather fernlike leaves; flowers single, 1-1½ in. across on 1 ft. stems during most of summer; plant in sun; useful in the rockery and perennial border. Mixed, 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Pyrethrum roseum; Painted Daisy

Daisy-like flowers 1½-2 in. across in early summer on stems 1 to 2 ft. tall; well drained soil; full sun or half shade. Mixed colors, 20c each, \$2.00 per doz.

Rudbeckia Golden Glow

Double golden yellow 2½-3½ in. chrysanthemum-like flowers; July-Aug.; showy in distant masses; divide and replant each year; (5-6 ft.) 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Saponaria ocymoides; Rock Soapwort

Useful in the rockery for its small lilac-rose flowers covering the plant in late spring, following Phlox subulata; plant 6-9 in. high. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Sedum; Stonecrop

"Among the most 'rocky' of rock plants;" excellent between the rocks, along walks, in walls and other places where few plants thrive; a dainty edging for flower beds or borders; useful for their variety of foliage, differences in flower forms and seasons and the dwarf habit of many varieties; easily grown in almost any soil if well drained in winter.



Columbine



Dwarf Junipers at Sarcoxie Nurseries

late summer or early fall; thick, broad, light bluish-green leaves 3 in. long. 25c each, \$2.50 per doz.

Sedum stoloniferum; *Running Stonecrop*. Branches trailing or prostrate; leaves somewhat triangular, bronzy-red in the fall. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sedum Rock Garden Collection

We will make up a rock garden assortment, good value, 3 plants, 3 varieties 50c; 6 plants, 3 varieties \$1.00; 1 doz. 4 varieties \$1.80; 2 doz., 4 varieties \$3.50.

Stokesia cyanea; *Stoke's Aster*

Lavender-blue cornflower-like blooms 3 to 4 in. across on 1 to 2 ft. stems in summer; easily grown in well drained soil; prefers full sun. 20c each, 3 for 55c, \$2.00 per doz.

Sweet William; *Dianthus barbatus*

Gorgeous in mid May with its flat clusters of flowers from pure white through various shades of pink to deep red, sometimes variegated, on 10-20 in. stems; the clusters are sometimes 4 in. across with 20-30 florets, and do not all open at once, so they last a considerable time; useful in the rockery, perennial border and for cut flowers; prefers full sun and well drained soil. Mixed colors only, 15c each, 3 for 40c, \$1.50 per doz.; 2 doz. for \$2.50, 4 doz. for \$4.00.

Veronica rupestris

A fine rockery plant; small, deep green, thickly matted foliage covered in late April or early May with bright blue flowers on stems 3 to 4 in. high. 35c each, \$3.50 per doz.

Violets, Sweet Russian

Fragrant deep rich violets in early spring and, less profusely, in autumn; the hardest of violets; easily grown; soon makes large clumps; good in the rockery, perennial border, along walks or any place a low plant is desired; prefers partial shade. 10c each, 3 for 25c, 75c per doz.; 25 for \$1.50.

Yucca filamentosa; *Adam's Needle*

Stiff, sharp-pointed evergreen leaves 1 in. wide in dense clumps 18 in. high; white flowers in early summer; (4-6 ft); effective on dry banks and in the rockery. 25c each.

Perennial Collection, 3 doz. for \$4.00

We will make up an assortment of 3 doz. perennials, not less than 8 kinds for \$4.00 (\$4.50 by parcel post in Mo. and adjoining states). Tell us whether you want them for a rock garden.

Lily, Regal, Lilium regale

A magnificent Chinese lily; white, center flushed yellow, sometimes tinged pink; outside of petals tinged purplish; delightful fragrance; easily grown; vigorous, reaching, when the bulbs become large, a height of 4-5 ft.; blooms freely. 4-6 in. circumference, 35c each, 3 for \$1.00, \$3.50 per doz. Postpaid, 45c each, 3 for \$1.20, \$4.00 per doz.

Shrubs

Shrubs for Rock Gardens and other purposes are described and quoted in our catalog. Write for it if you haven't a copy.

Evergreens

Many evergreens are useful in the rock garden. If they in time become too large, prune them back or remove to another location. The following are nice little plants, once transplanted, not balled as this size does not require balling. For other varieties and sizes and more complete descriptions ask for our catalog.

Arbortvitae, American Pyramidal

Compact and narrowly pyramidal; short branches covered with deep green foliage. 12-18 in. 50c each.

Arbortvitae, Berckman's

Of superb shape and compact, dwarf habit, new growth gold suffused with green, in winter green to bronzy-green. 10-12 in. 75c each.

Arbortvitae, Globe

Grows into globular form without shearing; deep green foliage. 10-12 in. 50c each.

Arbortvitae, Rosedale

Of neat, compact, upright growth; finely cut, somewhat needle-like, bluish-green foliage. 8-12 in. 50c each.

Juniper, Andorra

An excellent low-growing, trailing Juniper; rich green in summer, rich purplish-bronze in fall. 10-12 in. 75c each.

Juniper, Irish

A dense, slender, columnar tree with finely cut, bluish-green foliage. 8-12 in. 50c each.

Juniper, Sturgeon Bay

A low trailing Juniper attaining a height of about 5-8 inches; foliage light green. 10-12 in. 75c each.

Juniper, Waukegan

Low and compact, becoming 6-8 inches high, foliage soft bluish-green, in fall rich purple. 10-12 in. 75c each.

Retinospora plumosa aurea

Foliage feathery or plume-like, grayish-green, the new growth tipped gold. 8-12 in. 50c each.

Success With Roses

A little booklet the size of this with brief but comprehensive planting and pruning suggestions, and instructions for winter care. It quotes an excellent assortment of Everblooming, Hybrid Perpetual and Rambler Roses. Write for it if you haven't a copy.

BOOK OF PERENNIALS, BY ALFRED C. HOTTES

Contents. The Perennial Garden; Planning the Perennial Border; Garden Operations, Insects and Diseases; Plants for Shady Places; Rock Gardens and Plants; Lists of Twenty-fives; Noteworthy Perennials; Hardy Ferns; Ornamental Grasses; Herbs. Postpaid, cloth bound \$1.65.

Water Lilies all Summer

To have hardy Water Lilies all summer, beginning in May, you only need a pool, a foot of fertile soil, a foot or more of water, and sun. Pink; white; \$1.25 each, 2 for \$2.00.



Water Lilies all summer